California State Fire Marshal

CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued		Interpretation	06-035
Topic	Combustible piping in interstitial spaces		
Code Section(s)	NFPA 13 (1999), 5-13.1 CMC (2001), 602.2		
Requested by	David M. Benicki Construction Inspection, Inc. 4 Falcon Ridge Drive Pomona, CA 91766		
Date Received	6-12-06		

1. A combustible plastic pipe is installed in a non-combustible interstitial space. The type of pipe is not regulated by the 2001 California Plumbing Code Section 701.1, e.g. flame retardant polypropylene.

The Interstitial space in question IS NOT a supply/return plenum or an environmental air space with the maximum flame spread index and smoke development index regulated by the 2001 California Mechanical Code, per ASTM E84-05, for combustibles contained therein.

Is combustible plastic pipe allowed in the interstitial space of a Type I or Type II non-combustible building where sprinklers are installed in accordance with NFPA 13?

No. However, plastic piping would be allowed where the interstitial space is protected by sprinklers or where the piping is protected by an approved alternate acceptable to the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

2. A combustible plastic pipe is installed in a non-combustible interstitial space. This type of pipe is not regulated by the 2001 California Plumbing Code Section 701.1, e.g. flame retardant polypropylene .

The Interstitial space in question is a supply/return air plenum or an environmental air space with the maximum flame spread index and smoke development index regulated by the 2001 California Mechanical Code, per ASTM E84-05, for combustibles contained therein.

If the pipe flame spread index and smoke development index (FSI/SDI) exceeds the maximum 25/50 allowed, would providing a fire-resistive covering to the pipe that did not exceed the maximum FSI/SDI make the pipes installation within this space compliant?

Yes. Where listed for the application and allowed by the AHJ.